

Serial No. 09/881,254

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 25-28 are pending herein. Claims 17-24 were previously cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 14 are cancelled above, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue broader claims in a divisional application, and the contents thereof introduced into claims 27 and 28, respectively. Accordingly all claims previously depending from claim 1 or claim 14 have been amended to depend from claim 27 or claim 28.

Rejection of Claims 1-16, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mogi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,250,519) in view of Vinson (U.S. Patent No. 4,116,720) and Darwish (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,264).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mogi et al. in view of Vinson and Darwish and further in view of Seki (U.S. Patent No. 5,025,293).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mogi et al. in view of Vinson and Darwish and further in view of Wolf et al. (ISBN 0-9616721-6-1).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mogi et al. in view of Vinson and Darwish and further in view of Baliga (ISBN: 0-89464-799-7) and van Loon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,219,835)

These rejections and their supporting remarks are respectfully traversed.

Moreover, these rejections are now moot in view of the above claim amendments. In particular, claims 27 and 28 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has been done. Moreover, the remaining claims (2-13, 15, 16, 25 and 26) now depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 27 or claim 28.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

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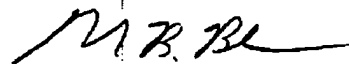
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 25-28 are presently in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney at (703) 433-0510 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

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The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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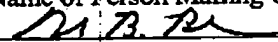
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